

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A crosslinker composition consisting essentially of
  - a) 50 to 95 weight percent monomeric C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>8</sub> alkoxyethyl melamine derivatives containing not more than about 0.20 wt. % of imino (>N-H) groups; and
  - b) 5 to 50 weight percent oligomeric C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>8</sub> alkoxyethyl melamine derivatives, wherein
    - (i) when said composition comprises from 5 to 20 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content of less than 0.20 wt. %;
    - (ii) when said composition comprises from 20 to 30 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content, I, defined by the algorithm,  $I \leq 0.02X - 0.2$ , where X is the weight percent oligomer in the composition and I is expressed in weight percent imino; or
    - (iii) when said composition comprises from 30 to 50 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content of less than 0.7 wt. %, and
  - c) wherein said weight percent of a) plus b) does not exceed 100%.
2. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1 which is liquid at 20 °C.
3. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.6 wt. %.
4. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.5 wt. %.
5. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.4 wt. %.
6. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.3 wt. %.

7. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.2 wt. %.

8. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 1 wherein said ~~said~~ alkoxyethyl melamine derivatives are methoxymethyl melamine derivatives.

9. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 8 which is liquid at 20 °C.

10. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 8 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.6 wt. %.

11. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 8 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.5 wt. %.

12. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 8 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.4 wt. %.

13. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 8 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.3 wt. %.

14. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 8 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.2 wt. %.

15. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1 wherein for each mole of melamine in the melamine derivatives in said composition there is at least 5.6 moles of alkoxyethyl groups attached to pendant nitrogen atoms of said melamine, where the alkoxyethyl groups are mixtures of methoxymethyl and minor amounts higher alkoxyethyl groups; where the amount of higher alkoxyethyl groups present does not inhibit curing of a standard coating at 66 °C to a hardness which survives at least 30 MEK rubs.

16. (Previously Amended) A crosslinker composition comprising monomeric and oligomeric alkoxyethylated melamine, wherein monomeric alkoxyethylated melamine molecules have 6 moles of substituent groups attached to pendant nitrogen atoms per mole of monomeric melamine, wherein said substituent groups are selected

from the group consisting of imino [ $>\text{N}-\text{H}$ ], methylol [ $>\text{N}-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ] , alkoxyethyl [ $>\text{N}-\text{CH}_2\text{OR}$ ] and acetal [ $>\text{N}-\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{OR}$ ]; and wherein difunctional bridging groups between melamine units in oligomeric alkoxyethylated melamine are selected from the group consisting of methylene groups [ $>\text{N}-\text{CH}_2-\text{N}<$ ] and methylene ether [ $>\text{N}-\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2-\text{N}<$ ] groups; wherein:

- (a) monomeric alkoxyethylated melamine units comprise at least 50 and up to 95 percent by weight of the monomeric and oligomeric alkoxyethylated melamine units in the composition as determined by size exclusion chromatography,
- (b) alkoxyethyl groups comprise at least 5.0 moles of substituent groups attached to pendant nitrogen atoms per mole of monomeric melamine, and
- (c) said alkoxyethyl groups on each melamine unit are methoxymethyl or mixtures of methoxymethyl and higher alkoxyethyl groups; wherein
- (d) when said composition comprises from 5 to 20 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content of less than 0.20 wt. %;
- (e) when said composition comprises from 20 to 30 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content, I, defined by the algorithm,  $I \leq 0.02X - 0.2$ , where X is the weight percent oligomer in the composition and I is expressed in weight percent imino; or
- (f) when said composition comprises from 30 to 50 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content of less than 0.7 wt. %, and
- (g) wherein the weight percent of said monomeric and oligomeric alkoxyethylated melamine molecules does not exceed 100%.